CLAIMS:-

1. A printhead supporting shell device for a pagewidth printhead assembly, the shell comprising:

a longitudinal laminated structure defining an interior space, formed from continuous layers of at least two materials;

the layers being odd in number and disposed symmetrically about a central layer.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

two layers which are symmetrically disposed about the central layer are made from the same material and have the same thickness.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

the shell further comprises a longitudinal gap adapted to receive a component of a printhead.

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

the laminated shell is formed from at least three metals laminated together, the laminate having inner and outer layers which have the same coefficient of thermal expansion.

5. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

the shell has outer layers which are made from invar.

6. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

each material has a different coefficient of thermal expansion.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein:

at least two materials have coefficients of expansion which are different than the coefficient of expansion of silicon, one material having a coefficient of expansion which is greater than the coefficient of expansion of silicon and one material

having a coefficient of expansion which is less than the coefficient of expansion of silicon.

8. A device according to claim 1, wherein:
two layers which are symmetrically disposed about the central layer have different thicknesses, the lateral cross section of the shell, in compensation, being configured to prevent bowing.

9. A device according to claim 1, wherein:
all of the layers are metal.

10. A device according to claim 1, further comprising:
an extruded plastic core in which is formed one or more ink reservoirs.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein:
the reservoirs lead to a printhead which protrudes from the shell.

12. A device according to claim 11, wherein:
the printhead is a modular printhead comprising a plurality of modules disposed along the length of the core.

13. A device according to claim 12, wherein:
each module is fabricated from silicon.

14. A device according to claim 13, wherein:
each module further comprises ink nozzles, chambers and actuators.